

PRESENT: Councillor Jeff Warburton - Chairman
Councillor John Atherden - Vice Chairman
Councillor John Erwin
Councillor Lucy Gianferrari
Councillor John Sherratt
Councillor Richard Jackson
Councillor Amy Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: Charlotte Leach, Cheshire East Council
Daniel Osborne, Tatton Estate
Adam Taylor, Into The Wild Bushcraft
Ben Mortimer, TWM Traffic
Clerk Sue McDonald

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors C Frankland

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS: None

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 14th January 2021. Proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Atherden. **RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting was accepted as a true record

4 POLICE REPORT

No representative from the Police was able to attend. However, PCSO Emma Darroch sent the following report by email:

- No burglaries
- No thefts from motor vehicles
- No thefts of motor vehicles

This was basically the same as for the last two meetings

Councillors reported that there had been a incidence of sheep worrying by a dog at Ryecroft Farm and a report of cannabis smoking in Rostherne

5 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

Ben Mortimer, of TWM Traffic, gave a presentation on the company's TWM Mini300 Speed Indicator Device. He had hoped to show it in action but could not get the device to power up. He apologised profusely and explained that he had not experienced this error before. He would be happy to demonstrate the working device in the future.

The Mini300

- is very simple to use, easy to connect to and very effective
- can be mains, battery or solar powered
- can be permanently placed or moved from place to place
- will start flashing when a vehicle is detected as going over the speed limit, will display its speed and display 'slow down' or a sad/happy face
- it does not contain ANPR or record precise details of a vehicle so it is GDPR compliant
- offers optional data collection.

At the end of his demonstration Ben asked for questions from the Council.

Do you install the device?

Yes we do install the devices. If you want one to be installed to an existing local authority post it would be advisable to ask permission although there is rarely a problem

What about theft?

There are two brackets and padlocks to secure the device to the post. We have never had a report of a device being stolen.

Which is most effective - smiley face or 'slow down'?

On general the 'slow down' display is more effective but it is up to the Council which is used.

How much are the devices?

The solar powered option is £2,220 and battery powered £1950. There is also an option to buy data collection.

Do you provide signage to warn people of speed checks?

The company does not usually provide such signs but could do on request

What about warranties and after sales support?

There is a two year guarantee under which all faults would be repaired/replaced free of charge. Fortunately (and ironically!) the device rarely fails and, because of Ashley's close proximity to the company, any faults could be fixed on site. The radar has been known to fail but if it does it is always within the first few months and is obviously covered by the warranty

The Chairman thanked Ben for his attendance and Ben left the meeting.

6 TATTON ESTATE

6.1 General Report

Daniel Osborne of Tatton Estate provided the following information:

- **Speeding**
Traffic was still going too fast down Ashley Hall driveway and the Estate was undertaking a signage review from North Lodge to South Lodge. It is hoped the review will be complete in 2 weeks
- **Filming**
AbbotVision would be leaving in May but the BBC will be carrying out more filming. Media City has an 18 month waiting list for recording and office space which is to the Estate's advantage.
- **Ashley School**
There is no further news about the letting of Ashley School although talks are continuing with the people interested in having a school on the premises
- **Planting Trees and Creating a Wetland**
Annette McDonald of TEM has been working with Rostherne specifically to improve the SSI Rostherne Mere by:
 - creating 2 new wetland areas
 - encourage an increase in bird species
 - improve the water quality
 There will be tree planting to improve the quality of the climate at Broadoak Farm and Arden House:
 - a woodland corridor would be created
 - there would be wild flower buffers
 - hedgerows would be maintained
 - soil erosion would be reduced

Were there any tree planting schemes to combat noise from HS2?

Daniel explained that it was something that Mr Brooks had been discussing, possibly to screen the embankment from the village. The difficulty is that HS2 does not provide much detail.

The Council would appreciate more detail from the Estate

Daniel accepted this comment and stated that the Estate would engage with the Council wherever possible

6.2 Into the Wild

Adam Taylor, owner of Into the Wild Bushcraft, welcomed the opportunity to describe his work but stated there was a matter he wished to clear up before getting into more detail.

Adam explained that a recent article in the press stating that there was to be large-scale expansion at the Bollin was a gross exaggeration of the truth. A reporter had spoken with Adam who had simply explained that he was intending to hold occasional early morning/evening yoga and fitness classes. Adam added that, apart from these classes, he had no specific plans.

- **Car Parking**
Car parking is an ongoing problem due to inconsiderate parking. This is especially true at weekends and school holidays but barriers had greatly improved the situation and the car park is managed by staff.
- **Footpaths and Maps**
It is intended to put up more signs showing maps and information about footpaths such as showing woodland tracks around the edge of the field.
- **Other Activities**
It is hoped that the survival skills for children will be restarted in the near future and Adam was considering a class covering the countryside code
- **Community Area**
The Council is welcome to use the Into the Wild community area such when and if necessary

Is there a legal requirement for toilet facilities?

As facilities at Wild Bushcraft only comprise takeaways, there is no legal requirement to provide toilet facilities. However, providing a Portaloo has not been discounted.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 Planning Applications for Consideration

7.1.1 21/0838M Ashley House, Ashley Road

21/0838M	21/0838M Ashley House, Ashley Road, Ashley, WA14 3QE Demolition of the existing house and trees identified in the arborist report. The house will be rebuilt on the same footprint of the existing house albeit apart from a double storey rear infill extension and carport to the front where the original garage was located	29/03/2021
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In considering this application some Councillors commented that it was not generally in keeping with other houses in the village, but that the proposal was far superior to the existing building.

There were concerns about access during the construction phase. However, the building was being created from large prefabricated blocks which, it is estimated, will take approximately four weeks to complete.

Ultimately Councillors agreed that they had no strong objections to this planning application although they did express concern about what appears to be a roof terrace which could affect the privacy of neighbouring properties.

7.2 Planning Enforcement

There are outstanding enforcement issues that had been reported but not resolved. The Clerk will chase them up again in the hope that some action will be taken.

7.3 Other Planning Matters

None

8 M56 SMART MOTORWAY

Councillor Jackson stated that there was not much to report although it was definite that Lanes 1 and 4 will be relaid in low noise tarmac as part of the Smart Motorway upgrade.

In addition the group had had it in writing that lanes 2 & 3 will also be laid with low noise tarmac but this would be done as part of regular motorway maintenance.

Councillor Sherratt stated the group was about to write to Highways England (HE) regarding both the number of trees which were being felled and also the short notice that Ashley was given about the work.

He went on to say that on the north embankment a significant number of trees seem to be disappearing. The worry is that they will do the same to the south side which is the side nearest the village.

9 HS2 AND NORTHERN POWERHOUSE RAIL

9.1 HS2

The HS2 subgroup had a very productive meeting with Esther McVey who is going to raise questions in parliament about the issues regarding HS2 in the village. Currently there is little more to say except that the group is actively seeking way to minimise the impact the railway will have on the village.

Councillor Erlam had been in touch with a company who makes jack boxes to determine whether a jack box under the mid-Cheshire line could be used in Ashley and therefore make the HS2 railway go in a cutting rather than on an embankment. The answer was very positive and it suggests it is a feasible alternative.

The subgroup had a meeting with HS2 Ltd. in which they agreed to look at the feasibility of putting the HS2 line in a cutting. However, the group was of the opinion that HS2 Ltd was merely playing lip service to Ashley in that the points they made were largely negative prior to any investigation being undertaken

Councillor Leach was asked if she could advise the Council on who, from CEC, might lend political support to Ashley's plight. She explained that CEC is currently very much in favour of HS2 mainly because of the regeneration of Crewe which is seen as a huge benefit to the people of Crewe and the Council. She thought that the best person to lobby could possibly be Councillor Craig Browne deputy leader of CEC.

9.2 Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR)

To record that the NPR appear almost obsessed with the desire to have the HS2 spur through Ashley

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 Authorisation of Payments

Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Erlam

£ 10.00	Fisher German	HRB Settlement
£120.00	S McDonald	Annual Administration
£ 60.00	St Elizabeth's Church	Room Hire
£104.39	S McDonald	PAYE Q4 (£90) and March Zoom meeting (£14.39)

10.2 Petty Cash Statement

To record that the petty cash fund remains at £100.00

10.3 Other Financial Matters

None

11 VILLAGE MATTERS**11.1 Hale 10K Race 2022**

It was agreed that the Council would compile a list of questions (also see item 15) which would be put to the organiser of the race. It was further agreed that the organiser would be invited to the next meeting.

11.2 Other Village Matters**11.2.1 Collapsed Drain**

There has been no movement on the collapsed drain near Tanyard Farm. There seems to be some confusion between Highways England and CEC because Lee Glover (CEC) is chasing Highways England. Clarification is needed regarding who owns the asset

12 AIRPORT OFF-SITE PARKING

Higher Thorns Green Farm is violating its approved planning permission by parking more cars than it is permitted to do. Planning Enforcement is aware of this situation and a complaint has been lodged with them, but not by the Council.

There is the potential for this type of parking to create large problems for Ashley if it is not nipped in the bud.

13 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

It is virtually impossible to get a response from Cheshire East Highways thus making any progress on solving highways issues exceptionally difficult

13.1 Overgrown Pavements, Gulleys, Drains and Potholes

The Clerk will request that Lee Glover of Highways, do a site visit so that all the issues in the village can be seen and logged at one time.

13.2 Graffiti on the Motorway Bridge

The Clerk had been informed that the Graffiti had been removed. Unfortunately it has since been reported that some graffiti remains.

13.3 Speeding

The ongoing issue of speeding in the village remains and it is very difficult to know the best way to tackle it. It is hoped that the installation of a SID might help

13.4 Other Highways Matters

The overgrown hedge at the corner of Swallows Barn/Hough Green Farm is extremely hazardous to motorists and is an accident waiting to happen. It has been reported a number of times but no action has been taken

14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Unwin and the Clerk, both of whom are involved with the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), thought that talks to determine how to resurrect the NP would be best served by a meeting outside the Council Meeting (once Covid-19 restrictions relax) and then report back to the Council.

Both Councillor Unwin and the Clerk wished to go on a forthcoming NP refresher course at a cost of £25.00 per person. Proposed by Councillor Warburton, seconded by Councillor Atherden and unanimously agreed.

15 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The public submitted the following questions:

- **Concerns about the Hale 10k Race**

- Litter being dropped around the village from the event participants and or spectators
- Historically our village litter pick has been held around this date, so we too may be out and about on the roads, unless we plan to do it on another date?! We could of course ask the event organisers to do the village litter pick for us!!!!? Or at least help with it.
- Road closures – it doesn't say whether there will be any and if there are, then around 2¼ out of our 4 roads (around half our roads) could be closed which could cause traffic problems
- Spectators and participants parking – if they have to pay for parking they may park around the village to avoid this cost, rather than park at Ashley Hall, which could cause traffic problems
- Traffic management – will there be any? Assuming it is needed of course.

- Hopefully there will be no other events happening through our village on this date, though cycle clubs/groups don't always announce cycle races/events coming through the village!
- this event may also impact on the Church service at St. Elizabeth (which starts at 11am) as sometimes the person leading the service comes from Hale as do some of the congregation; some also come from Hale Barns

These questions will be put to the Race organiser when he attends a Council meeting

- **Are the painted numbers on the road to do with maintenance and/or repair?**

The Council does not have an answer to this at the present time

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

17 CORRESPONDENCE

All email correspondence forwarded to Councillors

Post:

HS2	Update documentation
Highways England	Newsletter - sent to resident as well
Commercial	Mail Shots

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed at meeting as Monday 10th May 2021 at 8.00pm.

Following public advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) the meeting dates are now:

Wednesday 19th May 2021	7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 19th May 2021	8.00pm Annual Parish Council Meeting

19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Chairman 16/09/2021